



# Standens Barn Primary School

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Headteacher: **Amie James**



December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting term this has been and it has ended with the most fabulous nativity by our reception children and many other wonderful celebrations ready for the Christmas and Winter holidays.

In November, many of our Year 6 children attended a residential trip to Grafham residential centre. We understand that this can be an anxious time for all involved but the children had a wonderful time and made many happy memories, which we know will stay with them for a very long time.

They faced many new challenges with bravery, enthusiasm and resilience. It was also a privilege to see the children being thoughtful to one another and supporting each other through tricky moments (including making their own beds!).

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the staff who left their own homes and families to ensure the trip could go ahead and to offer your children amazing care (24 hours a day) during the duration of the trip.



## Goodbyes and welcome

In November, we also said farewell to Miss Elliott. Although Miss Elliott has only been with us for a short time, she made a huge impact and difference to the children she was supporting. Her parting words to us were **'There is magic is in these school walls'**. We will miss her greatly as I am sure your children will too. Thank you, Miss Elliott- good luck as you begin your next exciting chapter.

Over the past term, we have opened our doors to new perspective parents and families. All of those who looked around the school were really impressed by the environment, the learning and by the demonstration of BEST across the school. I would like to give a special mention to our House and Vice Captains who gave tours to our visitors and were fabulous ambassadors of our school. Well done!

## Assemblies

In assemblies this term, we have discussed many different themes including Autism and how we can be tolerant and thoughtful to those around us, we have shared poetry about the lives of refugees, and we have also learnt about Diwali celebrations. We also had a visit from Stan who discussed the work of Project 16:15 and the wonderful way his team of volunteers' support those who are homeless. We then discussed how we can be thoughtful to those in our wider community. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Pamela from Life Education who came in with Harold to talk about our physical and mental well-being. Our children really enjoy these visits and they really do support our learning in PSHE.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> December, we also held our first Sketchbook Assembly. The focus for this was Disney 100 and we used step by step instructions to build up our drawing of Mickey Mouse. We were all so proud of the children (and adults) and their focus, resilience and willingness to have a go. The sight of them all sitting, drawing, engrossed and absorbed in their work was amazing and the outcomes were incredible. This was an opportunity for the whole school to draw and create art together- it was a fun challenge and we all really enjoyed it and I look forward to having a go at many more during the school year.





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### Fund raising events

I want to express my thanks to all our school community for making our Winter Barnanza a wonderful event. The children, staff and Friends of Standens Barn worked incredibly hard to make the event happen with their ideas, effort and enthusiasm. As a result, we have raised over £1000 and the donations will help us to continue to ensure we can offer subsidised school trips, visits and visitors.

Over the past term you have generously donated items of chocolate, food items for Project 16:15 and money towards Children in Need. We are incredibly grateful that, even during these difficult financial times, you continue to demonstrate thoughtful and support our school and chosen charities so willingly. Thank you.



### Parent/carer information events

During the past term, there have been a variety of parent events that have been held across the school.

These have provided great opportunities for you to develop your understanding about educational requirements, what your child is learning and how well they are progressing. It is incredibly valuable when parents and carers show our children that we are working together to support their learning and enables our children to become more successful. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please continue to check your emails, our school website and social media for regular updates about what is happening in school and the curriculum offer for your child and about what they are learning.

I hope you all enjoy a restful break and a wonderful Christmas time. We look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 8:50a.m.**

With very BEST wishes for a happy and peaceful new year.

Mrs Amie James  
Head teacher



**Reminders:**

*To keep all our children safe, the play equipment/trim trail on our school playground is not to be used before and after school. The equipment is only supervised during playtimes, lunchtimes and specific PE lessons.*

*Please remember the car park is shut between 8:30 and 9:10 and from 3:00 until 3:30, unless you hold a disability badge/permit for vehicles which needs to be displayed clearly. Our caretaker will open the school gates when it is time to do so.*

*Please ensure you park safely and thoughtfully and NOT on the zigzag lines or in the school car parks (the areas both inside and outside the gates).*

*Please remember that if your child would like to bring their bike or scooter into school, they must wear a helmet.*

*We are committed to BEST and treating you with respect and courtesy and to be Thoughtful to you all. Our staff also have the right to work in a safe environment, so we ask that you treat them thoughtfully and with respect and courtesy.*

*Offensive behaviour will result in you being asked to leave and may result in prosecution.*

*Please keep up to date with all information by regularly checking your emails, our social media pages and our school website.*